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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/748,790	12/30/2003	Cleve E. Nordeen	6235-04-03	2103

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EXAMINER

WUJCIAK, ALFRED J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3632

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/748,790

Applicant(s)

NORDEEN, CLEVE E.

Examiner

Alfred Joseph Wujciak III

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

This is the first Office Action for the serial number 10/748,790, MULTIPURPOSE CAMPING HOOK, filed on 12/30/03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1, the phrase "such as" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim 1, lines 8-9, "merging at an outer end with an outer end of said lower arm" is indefinite because "merging at an outer end" is not referring to any element in the claim.

Claim 2, line 5, "surface; an adjustable" should be changed to ---surface, wherein an adjustable---

Claim 3, line 1, "includes" should be changed to ---include---

Claim 5, line 3, "arms" should be changed to ---arm---

Claims 4 and 6-10 are rejected as depending on rejected claim 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

US Patent # 684,312 to Rush in view of US Patent # 939,318 to Redman, in view of US Patent # 1,731,408 to Finnessy and in further view of US Patent # 891,538 to Greenman.

Rush teaches a hanger comprising a unitary hook member (figure 2) having a barbed base section (the upright vertical part of A, having screw 6) and a front section having a plurality of outwardly extending projecting arms (3). The base section has transverse frontal surface (located in between, opening, of A). The arms include an upper arm formed at an upper end of the base section and projecting outwardly and upwardly therefrom. The upper arm outwardly terminates with a transverse thin tip. The arms include a lower arm formed at a lower end of the base section and a middle arm formed at a middle section of the base section. The lower arm and the middle arm being connected at outer ends. The hook member is formed of a metallic (wire) material.

Rush teaches the outwardly barb (6) but fails to teach plurality of outwardly and downwardly projecting triangular barbs. Redman teaches the plurality of outwardly and downwardly projecting triangular bars (8). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Rush's barb with outwardly and

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downwardly projecting triangular bars as taught by Redman to provide designer's preference for shape of barb to driven in an object.

Rush teaches the lower arm but fails to teach the lower arm including a downwardly opening recess and a projecting tip extending into the recess. Finnessy teaches the lower arm having downwardly opening recess and a projecting tip (7). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have added Rush's lower arm with downwardly opening recess with a projecting tip extending into the recess as taught by Finnessy to provide a cutting support for cutting/opening a plastic cover for garment.

Rush teaches the base but fails to teach the base having aperture formed therethrough. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Rush's base with aperture as taught by Greenman to provide additional strength for supporting the hanger on an object.

Claims 2-6, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent # 684,312 to Rush in view of US Patent # 939,318 to Redman.

Rush teaches a hanger comprising a unitary hook member (figure 2) having a barbed base section (the upright vertical part of A, having screw 6) and a front section having a plurality of outwardly extending projecting arms (3). The base section has transverse frontal surface (located in between, opening, of A). The arms include an upper arm formed at an upper end of the base

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section and projecting outwardly and upwardly therefrom. The upper arm outwardly terminates with a transverse thin tip. The arms include a lower arm formed at a lower end of the base section and a middle arm formed at a middle section of the base section. The lower arm and the middle arm being connected at outer ends. The hook member is formed of a metallic (wire) material.

Rush teaches the frontal surface but fails to teach the surface includes an adjustable strap member. Redman teaches the surface having an adjustable strap (1) engaging the frontal surface. The strap member is formed of a woven material (col. 2, line 1) with adjustment means (3) for adjusting the length thereof. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have added adjustable strap to Rush's frontal surface as taught by Redman to provide additional support for supporting the hanger on a cylindrical object.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rush in view of Redman and in further view of US Patent # 1,731,408 to Finnessy.

Rush teaches the lower arm but fails to teach the lower arm including a downwardly opening recess and a projecting tip extending into the recess. Finnessy teaches the lower arm having downwardly opening recess and a projecting tip (7). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have added Rush's lower arm with downwardly opening recess with a projecting tip extending into the recess as taught by Finnessy to provide a cutting support for cutting/opening a plastic cover for garment.

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Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rush in view of Redman and in further view of US Patent # 5,738,080 to Brocco, Jr.

Rush teaches the adjustment means but fails to teach the adjustment means include a hook and loop fastener system. Brocco, Jr. teaches the adjustment means include a hook and loop fastener system. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Rush's adjustment means with hook and loop fastener system as taught by Brocco, Jr. to provide convenience for attaching/detaching the strap on the cylindrical object.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

US Patent # 501,197 to Taylor

US Patent # 509,630 to Taylor

US Patent # 1,301,500 to Reynolds

US Patent # 891,538 to Greenman

US Patent # 5,337,986 to Vollink

US Patent # 11,416 to Taylor

Taylor, Reynolds, Greenman and Vollink teach hanger for supporting an object.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alfred Joseph Wujciak III whose telephone number is (571) 272-6827. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-4:30pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie A Braun can be reached on (571) 272-6815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Alfred Joseph Wujciak III

Examiner

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Wujciak III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

5/24/05